

Applicants' remarks and amendments, filed on January 4, 2008, have been carefully considered. No claims have been canceled or added; claims 32-56 remain pending in this application.

In the previous Office Action, claims 32-50 were indicated as pending. The Examiner thanks Applicants for pointing out the inadvertent error that claims 32-56 were (and are) pending.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Applicants' Priority Document was filed on September 23, 2004.

Withdrawn Rejections

The 102(b) rejection of claims 32-50 as being anticipated by Ryska et al. (U. S. Patent No. 3,893,952) stated in the previous Office Action has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendments and of the persuasive arguments traversing said rejection.

Although Ryska et al. teach a catalyst carrier provided with one or more inner channels, which can have various shapes, this reference does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed strength index, nor does the reference teach or suggest the parameters of partition wall thickness, cell pitch, and lengths "A" and "B" as recited in the instant claims, said parameters defining the aforementioned strength index.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 32-56 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

These references have been reviewed and are considered cumulative to or less material than the cited references of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PATRICIA L. HAILEY whose telephone number is (571)272-1369. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo, can be reached on (571) 272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 1700 Receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jerry A Lorengo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/PATRICIA L. HAILEY/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793
April 14, 2008